

6/30/72

Dear Jerry,

I am sending a copy of this letter to Howard only. Jim phoned me Wednesday to tell me he couldn't keep our date for yesterday. He told me you had phoned him, told him that you had written me, so I presume you went further. In any event, I do not propose discussing this in any detail with him, if at all, and I did expect your letter, which came today. I expected it in any event. I have also written Gary and Sylvia and have heard from neither.

Your letter is neither complete nor honest, whether or not your intent is dishonest. I do not propose to argue with you or to address the things that to me are irrelevancies. Perhaps the chief reason I write at all is because we have felt of you as you have of us. If you will review in your mind some of the criticisms of you I have made to your face and to you in writing, you may understand two things: that if we did not feel this way we'd have told you off and forgotten you; and that mine were fatherly criticisms.

You haven't the remotest idea of what you are into. You have become (I'm being blunt for effect and because we have medical appointments, both of us, and because I have other mail to read and attend - I've been looking for this letter since Jim said you mailed it) - arrogant, have an ego inflated beyond your realization, have done stupid things that you will ultimately come to understand, and I think the time is not far distant when you are going to face an emotional crisis as well as one of conscience and I think you'd better start, at this too late date, trying to understand yourself and preparing yourself instead of acting like God's surrogate on earth.

In your close you say "the case is important to me". But at no time in your life have you done the work to give you not only the right to intrude yourself into delicate decisions but even to think you have the knowledge that would justify it on the part of any responsible person. Blessed with immeasurable arrogance and conceit and one of the more inadequate bases in fact, you are interfering in policy matters for which you have no basis. You are going to hurt many people you do not want to hurt besides Bill and me and yourself before this is all over. You don't even understand the people you know, which is easier than understanding yourself. You have been totally insensitive to the fact that you associate with people who have emotional problems and may, with the purist of motive as with the greatest of stupidity, aggravate them. I am genuinely sorry for you. I have at many times and in many ways tried to warn you but you remain insensitive. You are like the duck with water on its back. So much for the lecture, the last you'll get. We simply will not live in the way you require. I was quite serious in saying we want nothing more to do with you and I want back copies of anything you have of mine. You are a walking disaster, and we have too much trouble with this. Perhaps some day you will learn that it takes more than public hair to betoken maturity.

Your arrogance is repeated at the beginning, "But you are not privy to all the facts, and I think they should be considered by you." Thanks, God's representative. Nobody is ever privy to all the facts about anything, but in this case, incredible as it may seem to one who so clearly considers himself omniscient, the ignorance and the falsehood are yours, for in what follows you are factually in error. Your permeating ignorance is such that with all of this you can't even spell "Berkeley" right. Gary is one of two people to whom I gave copies when I first got it. I then, as you well know and knew with regard to him, had in every case at least two duplicate depositories of all the stuff I got. It began with everything I got, which is quite opposite the shit Sylvia has been spreading for years. This continued until it became a financial burden we could not bear but never ended with what I regard as important and extended to where I knew I was in competition for I was simultaneously encouraging that depository to write a book in direct competition with one I had already started, which addresses that about which I have also been silent for years. Gary did not get it independently. He got it from me. You not only saw it here, he begged me to show it to Paul and begged copies of me which I refused you. You had best prepare yourself for the future by recognizing the convenient flexibility of your memory, which is taxed by fewer years and fewer problems than mine. I am pretty certain you also asked me to show it to others you brought here.

If Wecht has minimal competence in his field, why does he have to be told what the pictures and X-rays show? ("I decided that it was essential that Wecht be aware of Berkeley's

confirmation of the lower location of the back wound.") Did you, God's voice on earth, source of all wisdom, fount of all knowledge? Wecht didn't know? At a time when he had promised to help ~~me~~ I, personally, told him.

"After some rubbish about not considering yourself omniscient, you show further how detached you are from reality as well as fact, and because you will never again see anything I have, I suggest that if you do not believe me you ask Howard, who I am sure has gone through that file at least once. "Wecht remains unconvinced ~~for~~ if the potential for harm." I have repeated invited him and others to discuss this and he and others, especially Sylvia, have refused. More, I have repeatedly invited Cyril here, with his wife, so that he could be of help to use, as of far in the past, instead of a current problem because of his ignorance. You will find that he has refused to do anything because it would cost him money. Ask Howard. "He has seen the letter. It is that raw. But if Wecht were unconvinced and aware of the possibility, with whom has he consulted who might know? Has he, for example, not in response to my invitation, repeated after the long, emotional one, but on his own, as a responsible man, forgotten about what kind of really terrible person I am and asked me to spell it out? Or with his sincere interest in nothing but the truth that, of course, without him would never be know, somewhere to explore it? Is he so poor? Or is it that his interest isn't that genuine. He could drive here and return the same day without great suffering, and I'm sure he doesn't spend all day every Sunday raking in the loot to which he is so attached. It is easy to remain "unconvinced". All you need do is remain ignorant. And refuse to ask those who can tell you.

If Wecht knows his field, and I am entirely without doubt, he requires no briefing of any kind to interpret what he sees. If his sole purpose was to report on what he sees, he'd not think of asking a briefing. What he is to see is open and shut stuff. He needs only his personal expertise to interpret it. If he needs or wants more, new questions exist.

What I believe I told you about Finch's testimony is that it was not essential to your article, that you already had more than you could use, that I couldn't stop anyone from using it having given it to Garrison who did, that you and others ought to do some soul-searching about why you repeatedly use the work of others as your own.

"I did what I felt I had to do." Here you become God himself. You don't know enough to make such decision and your arrogance precludes your asking yourself if you do. But what is conspicuous in all of this, as with the Wecht paragraph above, is that even after you and Gary discussed what is fact, not matter how you distort and twist, "you saw both items as your work", neither you nor Gary nor anyone saw fit to ask or speak to me. So I know what is really in that overflowing heart of yours when you say, "That was a decision I arrived at solely out of consideration for your feelings."

You talk of how well you know Sylvia. It is self-delusion, and on this subject in particular. I will not argue it, I don't want to hurt her more than inevitably she will hurt herself, but I ask that Howard can give you a yes or no on whether this has happened. It has, whether or not deliberate, whether or not he recalls. Vibe: New York Times.

You made available to Cyril what you personally knew was the product of my long and expensive labor, knowing the whole Ned mess, knowing it was essential to and integral to a book in which you had at least a glimmer of the amount of blood and heart I did and I have in it, knowing all the other things of which I need not again remind you, "because in good conscience I couldn't do anything else."

I leave you with your conscience and your redefinition of "good". May you survive both better than you deserve or ~~you~~ I think you will.

If there is anything of mine you do not want to return personally, please do it through Howard or Walter, including what Linda has and you have been so childish about for so long.